

**Lt. Governor John Cherry**  
**2007 Inaugural Address**  
**January 1, 2007**

Thank you.

Governor Granholm, Secretary of State Land, Attorney General Cox, Senator Levin, distinguished guests, family and friends, and the people of Michigan: It is an honor to stand before you today as the re-elected lieutenant governor of this great state. Thank you very much.

I want to take a moment to thank my family – my wife Pam and our children, our son John Daniel, our daughter Meghan, and our son-in-law Chris, for their strong support during my first term in office and during the re-election campaign. Throughout my public career, Pam has been my partner and confidant, and without her love and support, I would not be able stand here today. My mother, Marge Cherry, is also present today, and her support has been life long.

And I want to thank all of you out there who have supported this administration, fought with this administration, and pushed this administration to do great things in our first term. We're now on the second leg of a journey that will strengthen this state and push it forward with a renewed sense of optimism toward new economic opportunities by putting our people first and creating a secure future for our families.

For more than 400 years, ships have explored the Great Lakes, carrying cargo, passengers and crews who have dreamt of new opportunity. Today, freighters from our home ports and from ports around the world still ply the Great Lakes to move raw materials and goods throughout the Midwest.

I like to think of our administration as one of those freighters on the Great Lakes – we have a captain who is determined to bring us in safely and securely, and we have a great crew – the Cabinet, the state employees, and our citizens – who work hard every day to make our state a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Our hard-working crew is ready to lead this state during these challenging times. Our cargo hold is loaded with innovation and creativity, and our port of call is prosperity.

Our journey began four years ago during hard times. Our state was experiencing the perfect economic storm – job loss due to a contracting auto industry, unfair trade practices, and the already looming state budget deficit. All these challenges would confront our new administration.

Our governor took charge and has never stopped her mission to change the direction of this state. She made the tough gut-check decisions on how best to eliminate the state's budget deficits. And she has never stopped working to attract new businesses and investments to our state.

And even though this journey has been rough sailing, she never veered off course. She has kept her hand steady on the wheel, protecting our families, investing in our people, and making the state more competitive in the cut-throat world of job creation.

Through it all – the tough economic times and budget cuts – we were able to accomplish much, because we worked together.

Together, we fashioned the nation's most comprehensive and aggressive economic plan to diversify our economy through state investment in cutting-edge businesses and to put people to work today by accelerating state construction and road improvement projects.

Together, we have worked to diversify the state's economy. We have created thousands of new jobs in the high-demand, high-wage sectors of biotechnology, homeland security, advanced manufacturing, and alternative energy.

Together, we have worked to expand health care coverage in this state. Our Michigan First initiative will be ready to roll out in 2007, providing universal health care access to all Michigan citizens.

Together, we worked to secure our state's economic future by fighting for a new Michigan Promise that will provide every high school student who wants the opportunity to go to college with a \$4,000 scholarship. This will help us double the number of college graduates in our state over the next 10 years.

Together, we have worked to retrain more than 100,000 unemployed workers so we can fast-track them into jobs where we have critical shortages, like health care and skilled trades.

Together, we have fought to keep the needs of manufacturers in front of our national leaders and to help them understand that manufacturing is the backbone to our state's economy.

So as lieutenant governor, I want to thank Governor Granholm and all our crew for working as a team, sometimes despite great odds, to keep us afloat, to keep us moving forward, and to hold strong to our belief in the great work the people of this state can do, will do, and are doing to make Michigan an incredible place to live and work.

Thank you and God bless you all. I look forward to serving this great state for four more years.